

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

MC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6839

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US, GW

SUBJECT: UGANDA: AMIN COMMENTS ON PAGE AIRWAYS,
U.S. RELATIONS, AND ZAIRE

REF: STATE 63126

THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS PASSED US THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM FRG AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN IN KAMPALA ON MR.
HANNER'S VISIT AND UGANDAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S.
AND ZAIRE:

1. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT AMIN RECEIVED MR. HANNER
FROM PAGE GULFSTREAM NEW YORK ON MARCH 24. MR. HANNER
INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT THE UGANDAN HOUSE IN NEW
YORK WOULD BE READY BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. AMIN
TOLD HANNER THAT HE HAD COME AT "THE RIGHT TIME TO GET
FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ABOUT UGANDA." HE HOPED THAT
HANNER WOULD REPORT CORRECTLY ABOUT WHAT HE SAW HERE.
AMIN REAFFIRMED THAT HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE PEOPLE OF
THE UNITED STATES BUT THAT HE FEARED THE CIA. AS
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PRESIDENT OF UGANDA, HE LOVED HARD WORK IN VARIOUS
FIELDS AND CITED THE CREW OF THE C-130 AS AN EXAMPLE.
AMIN TOLD HANNER THAT HE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA
WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTORS AND TOURISTS.

2. AMIN HAS ALSO HELD INTERVIEWS WITH A BLACK
AMERICAN JOURNALIST, JEFF DIXON, WHO HAS BEEN IN

UGANDA FOR ONE WEEK NOW AND WHO CAME WITH THE PRESIDENT FROM CAIRO. AMIN REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE WISHED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IMPROVED, INVITING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REOPEN THE EMBASSY IN KAMPALA.

3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS SHOW THAT AMIN, AT THE MOMENT, IS VERY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH AMERICA AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. UGANDAN TELEVISION SHOWS MOSTLY AMERICAN FILMS; NEWSPAPERS ALSO BRING FAVORABLE ARTICLES ABOUT WESTERN COUNTRIES. AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS COULD BE THAT AMIN IS ANNOYED WITH PODGORNYY AND CASTRO, WHO, LIKE VISITORS FROM THE WEST, VISIT EAST AFRICA BUT AVOID UGANDA.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT MIGHT BE INTERESTING THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU SENT TWO PERSONAL MESSAGES TO AMIN OVER THE LAST THREE DAYS, DELIVERED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ZAIRE WHO CONTINUED ON TO CAIRO ON THE 24TH OF MARCH. MESSAGES WERE OBVIOUSLY ON ANGOLA-ZAIRE CRISIS. AMIN, AS WAS REPORTED IN THE NEWS, COMMENTED THAT EVERY STATE HAD THE RIGHT TO GET WEAPONS FROM ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY IF ATTACKED, AND THAT HE WAS WATCHING THE SITUATION IN SHABA PROVINCE CLOSELY. INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE SYMPATHIZES WITH MOBUTU AND JUSTIFIES MOBUTU'S ARMS PURCHASES IN THE U.S. ELLERKMANN END TEXT.....
STOESSEL

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